TENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

TANI YOSHIKAZU

PCT

NOTIFICATIONOFTRANSMITTALOF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCTRule 71.1)

6-20, AKASAKA 2-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 107-0052 JAPAN

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

18.11.03

Applicant's or agent's file reference

CFC636/15906

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No. PCT/JP 03/12421

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

29.09.03

30.09.02

Applicant

CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

- 1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
- 2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
- 3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

Japan Patent Office

3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan

Authorized officer

2P 9606

Commissioner of

the Patent Office

Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3221

ATTENTIONS

1. Demand for copy of documents

Copy of the documents described in the international preliminary examination report and not described in the international search report.

An applicant can request the copy of these cited documents to the Japan Patent Office, however, Japan Patent Information Organization also services sales of the copy of these cited documents. Those who request copying of the cited documents should pay attention to the following points.

[Application Method]

- (1) As for Patent (Utility Model, Design) Gazette, the following points shall be defined clearly.
- O Types of patent, utility model, and design
- Fiscal year and number of publication of application or publication of unexamined application (or patent number, registration number)
- ONecessary number of paper sheets
- (2) As for documents except for the gazette, the following points are required attention.
 - O Be sure to attach the copy of the international preliminary examination report (which shall be returned).

[Application and Reference]

〒135-0016

4-1-7 Toyo Koto-ku, Tokyo

Sato Daiya Building

Foundation of Japan Patent Information Organization

Information Processing Department

Copy Service section

TEL: 03-3508-2313

Note) The period for requesting the copy of the documents to Japanese Patent Office is set to 7 years from the international application date.

2. It is necessary to submit the copy of international application (except for cases of already transmitted from the International Bureau) and its prescribed translation, and to pay the national fee. Respective countries set different periods so as to be required attention. (See Treaty Article 22, Article 39, and Article 64 (2) (a) (i))



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| Applicant's or agent's file reference CFC636/15906 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| International application No. PCT/JP03/ 12421 | International filing date (day/mor 29.09.03 | nth/year) Priority date (day/month/year) 30.09.02 | | | | | | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) | | | | | | | | |
| Int.Cl ⁷ B41J 2/175 | Int.Cl ⁷ B41J 2/175 | | | | | | | |
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| Applicant | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | | | | |
| CANON KABUSHIKI K | AISHA | · | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. | | | | | | | | |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet. | | | | | | | | |
| This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been | | | | | | | | |
| amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). | | | | | | | | |
| These annexes consist of a total of sheets. | | | | | | | | |
| 3. This report contains indications re | elating to the following items: | | | | | | | |
| I Basis of the report | | | | | | | | |
| II Priority | | | | | | | | |
| III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | | | | | | |
| VI Certain documents cited | | | | | | | | |
| VII Certain defects in the international application | | | | | | | | |
| VIII Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | | | |
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| Date of submission of the demand | Date o | of completion of this report | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 29.09.03 | | 27.10.03 | | | | | | |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | | rized officer 2P 9606 | | | | | | |
| Japan Patent Office | | KIHIRO KIRIHATA | | | | | | |
| 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tol | cyo 100-8915, Japan Teleph | one No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3221 | | | | | | |

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP03/12421

| I. | Ba | sis of the report | | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. | 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:* | | | | | | |
| | | the international application as originally filed | | | | | |
| | | the description: | | · . | | | |
| | | pages | | , as originally filed | | | |
| ' | | pages | | | | | |
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| | | the claims: Nos. | | as originally filed | | | |
| | | Nos | , as amended (together with any s | tatement) under Article 19 | | | |
| | | Nos. | | _, filed with the demand | | | |
| | | Nos. | _ , filed with the letter of | | | | |
| | | the drawings: | | | | | |
| | | sheets/fig | | | | | |
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| | Ш | the sequence listing part of the description: | • | oo onininalla 61ad | | | |
| | | pages | | | | | |
| | | pages | | | | | |
| | With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is: which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3). With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international | | | | | | |
| | preli | preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: | | | | | |
| | \square | contained in the international application in written form. | | | | | |
| | \mathbb{H} | filed together with the international application in computer refurnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. | eadable form. | | | | |
| | 님 | furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable | form. | | | | |
| | The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. | | | | | | |
| | | The statement that the information recorded in computer respect to the furnished. | adable form is identical to the wri | tten sequence listing has | | | |
| 4. | | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: | | | | | |
| | LJ | the description, pages | | | | | |
| | | the claims, Nos. | | | | | |
| | | the drawings, sheets/fig | | | | | |
| 5. | | This report has been established as if (some of) the amendment beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplement | ats had not been made, since they hat al Box (Rule 70.2(c)).** | ive been considered to go | | | |
| * | in th | acement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Offic is report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this r 70.17). | e in response to an invitation under report since they do not contain a | Article 14 are referred to mendments (Rules 70.16 | | | |
| ** | ** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report. | | | | | | |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

| v. | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|------|---------------|--|
| 1. | Statement | | | | |
| | Novelty (N) | Claims Claims | 1-26 | _ YES _ NO | |
| • | Inventive step (IS) | Claims Claims | 1-26 | _ YES _ NO | |
| | Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims Claims | 1-26 | _ YES _ NO | |
| | · | | | | |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1: EP 1232870 A1(CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA)2002.08.21

& JP 2002-234180 A

D2: US 2002/0027585 A1(FUJI XEROX CO.,LTD.)2002.03.07

& JP 2002-36557 A

Claims 1-26

Both D1 and D2 are the documents defining the general state of the art which are not considered to be of particular relevance.